

Message Text

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: LABOR PARTICIPATION IN UB INVESTIGATING COMMISSION

1. ANDRES VICTOR ARTILES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF HONDURAN WORKERS (CTH) IS ONE OF THOSE NAMED TO THE GOH INVESTIGATING COMMISSION STUDYING THE UB BRIBERY SCANDAL. NORTH COAST LABOR LEADERS CELEO GONZALES (FESITRANH PRESIDENT), OBDULIO CACERES (CTH PRESIDENT) AND OSCAR GALE SITRATERCO PRESIDENT) LEARNED OF ARTILES' ACCEPTANCE IN LABOFF'S PRESENCE ON APRIL 9 AND EXPRESSED IMMEDIATE ANGER THAT ARTILES HAD AGREED TO SERVE WITHOUT CONSULTING THEM.

2. GONZALES AND CACERES WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO REACH ARTILES UNTIL LATE IN THE EVENING APRIL 10, BY WHICH TIME IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMMISSION. THE NORTH COAST LEADERSHIP IS CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT SURFACE FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THE LABOR IS NOT A DISINTERESTED PARTY. ARTILES COMES FROM A BANANA WORKERS UNION (SUTRAFSCO) AND GALE, GONZALES AND CACERES ARE ALL FROM SITRATERCO, THE UB
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WORKERS' UNION.

3. LABOFF HAS LEARNED THAT IN THEIR MEETING OF APRIL 10, CACERES AND GONZALES GAVE ARTILES WRITTEN AND SIGNED INSTRUCTIONS STRICTLY DEFINING THE LIMITS OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMISSION. ANY DEVIATION FROM THE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO ACTION. ALSO, ARTILES HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE REGULAR REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK TO THE NORTH COAST LEADERSHIPB

4. ALTHOUGH THE NORTH COAST LEADERSHIP IS VERY UPSET AT ARTILES THEY AT LEAST HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S OPERATIONS. THE NATURE OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION INDICATES THAT OTHER SECTORS OF THE SOCIETY WILL PROBABLY ALSO HAVE AN INSIDE TRACK TO INFORMATION, E.G. THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION OF COHEP'S CAMILO RIVERA GIRON.

5. IT IS TOO EARLY TO KNOW HOW BADLY ARTILES HAS BURNED HIMSELF WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CTH. ASIDE FROM COMMITTING WHAT IS REGARDED AS A BAD ERROR OF JUDGMENT, CACERES AND GONZALEZ DISCOVERED THAT ARTILES HAD NOT BEEN PERSONALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. THE INVITATION HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO THE CTH AND ARTILES ACCEPTED ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION AND NAMED HIMSELF TO SERVE WITHOUT DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH THE LEADERSHIP. SANCHEZ

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